

Wednesday 09/30/20

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Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Americans Suffer Migraines At Higher Rates Than Heterosexuals - Study

by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

A new survey conducted by researchers at the University of California - San Francisco recently indicated that Americans who identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual are much more likely to suffer from migraines than their heterosexual counterparts.

Published in the [Journal of the American Medical Association Neurology](#), the survey involved nearly 10,000 Americans aged between 31 and 42 from 2016 to 2018. Roughly 86% of the participants identified as heterosexual, with 10% saying they were “mostly” straight. The remaining 4% of participants identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

The findings ultimately determined that gay, lesbian and bisexual participants experienced migraines at a rate 58% higher than that of heterosexual participants.

Although the survey noted that gay, lesbian and bisexual participants experienced migraines at a higher rate than heterosexuals, work conducted by researchers failed to pinpoint an exact reason why.

However, lead study author Jason Nagata, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the university, [told Reuters](#) that “there might be a higher rate of migraines in [lesbian, gay and bisexual] people because of discrimination, stigma or prejudice, which may lead to stress and trigger a migraine.” Data released by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) indicates that hate crimes based on an individual’s sexual orientation have been steadily increasing over the years. The agency’s most [recent hate crime report](#) indicates that in 2018, 17% of the total 7,036 single-bias reports made that year were a result of sexual orientation bias - a 1.1-percentage-point increase when compared to [data published in 2017](#).

The FBI’s breakdown of the 1,404 hate crime offenses that were based on sexual orientation bias in 2018 notes that of all the incidents, 59.8% were driven by anti-gay bias.

“Physicians should be aware that migraines are quite common in [lesbian, gay and bisexual] individuals and assess for migraine symptoms,” Nagata stated, adding that barriers to health care may also explain the migraine disparity.

The US-based nonprofit [Migraine Research Foundation](#) notes that migraines are more than just your average headache, often causing sufferers to experience severe throbbing on one or both sides of their head. Other symptoms include visual disturbances, dizziness, vomiting, numbness and extreme sensitivity to light, smell, sound and touch, among other neurological effects.

The foundation states that migraines are the sixth-most disabling illness in the world, as attacks “usually” last between four and 72 hours. Additionally, the group indicated that an individual suffering from head pain checks themselves into an emergency room every 10 seconds in the US.

Previous studies on migraines have determined that gender, ethnicity and socioeconomic status also play roles in the neurological disease's occurrence. The Migraine Research Foundation found that women experience migraines [three times as often as men](#), and that some [10% of school-aged children](#) suffer from migraines.

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Hangry Pomeranian Throws Fit Over New Diet - Video Club

Pao, a fluffy Pomeranian living life in Bangkok, Thailand, recently took a new stand against their human after being subjected to a diet that consisted of two measly pieces of dog kibble. Video footage obtained by video licensor ViralHog captures the silly human initially collecting a handful of kibble for Pao's meal before cutting the portion to just two small pieces. Within seconds of Pao receiving the new serving, the pup showed no hesitation in making their disgust known.

It's safe to say that Pao's vengeful snarl and decision to push over the bowl in anger may have taught the offending human a lesson on not messing with a certain someone's food portions.

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Watch: US Marine Corps Tanker Aircraft, F-35 Crash Into Desert After Mid-Air Collision
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

Two US Marine Corps aircraft crashed on Tuesday after colliding with each other. All crew survived, and the recording of exchanges between air traffic controllers and the crew of one of the planes, a KC-130J aerial tanker aircraft, has been obtained by the press.

On Tuesday afternoon, an aerial mishap resulted in two Marine Corps aircraft, the KC-130J and an F-35B Lightning II fighter, plummeting into the desert in southeastern California, [according to a news release by Marine Corps Air Station Yuma](#) in nearby Arizona.

The release is scant on details, but notes the incident happened while the F-35B was attempting to refuel via the KC-130J Super Hercules. [According to the Desert Sun, the F-35B crashed into a state park](#) near Salton City, a town on the west coast of the Salton Sea, igniting a fire that the town's fire department successfully put out.

The F-35 pilot safely ejected and survived the incident. The final moments of the jet's pilotless plummet to the earth were captured on film by locals:

However, a good deal more is known about the moments after the collision onboard the Super Hercules, as the pilots wrestled the massive plane down. [The Drive published a recording of a little more than four minutes](#) of radio traffic before and after the collision.

In the recording, the large transport aircraft can be heard gaining permission to enter 17,000-foot airspace west of the Salton Sea before the incident occurs. Then, after American

Airlines Flight 237, a passenger flight from San José del Cabo, Mexico, to Los Angeles, California, reports "pyrotechnics" and "explosions" on the ground roughly 5 miles from its location, the crew of the KC-130J announces their collision with the F-35B.

"LA Center LA Center, RAIDER 50 declaring an emergency, midair collision with VOLT 93," the tanker's pilot says in a shockingly calm and professional tone. "We have two engines out, we're leaking fuel, and likely on fire, and in emergency descent at this time. RAIDER 50."

As the air traffic controller in Los Angeles attempts to ascertain some more details about the incident, such as just where this is happening, the Super Hercules repeats again: "We declare an emergency. We still have partial control of the aircraft. Two engines out. We are aiming towards uh..."

For the next few moments, only the air traffic controllers can be heard, but from the sound of it, the aircraft crew tried to limp to Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport in Thermal, a few miles north of the Salton Sea and more than 20 miles from where the F-35 crashed.

The KC-130J didn't make it. Instead, it belly-flopped into a carrot field just outside the airfield, according to the Desert Sun. Marine Corps Air Station Yuma reported that all the crew are safe. Photos of the crash-landed plane show a good deal of punishment, but a remarkably intact aircraft, all things considered.

None of the reports make any mention of the KC-130J's fuel load. [According to maker Lockheed, the aircraft can tote](#) as much as 60,000 pounds of fuel. [Sputnik has previously reported that US Air Force regulations for preparing](#) for a crash landing include firing off all ordnance and even ejecting all the plane's flares, so presumably the Marine Corps Super Hercules would have had to take similar action and dump its remaining fuel somewhere. If not, the fact that the plane hit the ground and didn't explode in a huge fireball is a truly incredible circumstance.

The US Marine Corps is investigating the incident, after which it is likely a great deal more information will be revealed

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'Long Way Off': US Space Force Will Launch Humans Into Orbit 'At Some Point'
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

Despite its very futuristic-sounding name, service members of the US Space Force (USSF) perform their roles down here on planet Earth - at least for now, according to a senior officer at US Space Command.

"At some point, yes, we will be putting humans into space," Maj. Gen. John Shaw, head of the Combined Force Space Component Command at US Space Command, said Tuesday at an event hosted by the US Air Force's AFWERX innovation program, [according to Air Force Magazine](#). However, he added that it's still "a long way off," [Military.com reported](#).

He later qualified this by noting that the Space Force members sent to the final frontier "may be operating command centers somewhere in the lunar environment or someplace else."

For now, however, the roughly 16,000 space warfighters [will have to content themselves with trips to Qatar](#).

However, before the Pentagon can launch USSF members into space, perhaps it should figure out what they're going to be called first? For now, USSF service members seem to be called "space warfighters," [at least according to the service's "Spacepower" doctrine](#) capstone publication released last month.

US President Donald Trump created the Space Force late last year as part of the Department of the Air Force, and he has [said the Pentagon needs the specialized service](#) because of the increasing militarization of space by Russia and China. Accordingly, USSF capabilities have focused on [ground-based weapons that disrupt enemy satellite](#) communications and on [securing the US' various satellite networks from jamming](#) and disruption by adversaries.

However, [as Sputnik has reported, the US militarized space decades ago](#) as part of its all-encompassing competition with the Soviet Union and its allied socialist nations. This included developing anti-satellite (ASAT) missiles, detonating nuclear weapons in space and even building inspector satellites and test-firing particle beams in space. By comparison, [China only tested an ASAT missile](#) in 2007 [and Russia earlier this year](#). India has [also tested an ASAT missile, in 2019](#).

The US civilian space agency, NASA, is also working on returning Americans to space and the moon, as well as sending them beyond. Between 2011 and May 2020, US astronauts en route to the International Space Station had to travel to Russia and hitch a ride on a Russian rocket. On May 30, [private firm SpaceX launched two astronauts in a Crew Dragon capsule](#) mounted atop a Falcon 9 rocket, both of which are built by the company.

Earlier this month, NASA and defense contractor Northrop Grumman [successfully tested the rocket engine on a booster rocket for the Space Launch System](#). The rocket assembly will lift craft for the manned moon missions of the Artemis program, the first unmanned mission of which is [expected to launch late next year](#).

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US Army Wants Electronic Jammer Weapon With Missile Defense Capabilities
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

US Army officials unveiled plans on Tuesday for a vehicle-mounted electronic jamming system that will uniquely have the ability to jam incoming projectiles, fouling their targeting in the moments before impact.

At the Army's [CEMAIite conference on Tuesday](#), three Army colonels discussed a new electronic warfare system they hope to employ in the coming years to disrupt enemy weapons systems even more than the Terrestrial Layer System (TLS) already under development. The TLS is designed to operate at the brigade level and will fit on a Stryker armored vehicle. However, the system unveiled on Tuesday will be considerably more powerful, and is thus dubbed the TLS-Echelons Above Brigade (TLS-EAB), [Breaking Defense reported](#).

According to the outlet, the system will likely be mounted on two Oshkosh Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle (FMTV) trucks, each of which will cover different responsibilities. Together, they will be able to locate enemy signals and relay the information for other forces to attack, as well as identify and track incoming weapons, such as missiles, artillery shells and drones, in order to jam them.

Breaking Defense reports the TLS-EAB will employ a number of deceptive practices to make incoming projectiles lose their targets, including electronic jamming, wireless hacking and sending deceptive signals in order to create decoys. Since [so many modern weapons rely on GPS tracking and radar](#) for guidance and detonation, this makes them especially vulnerable to electronic warfare.

Like other air defense systems, the TLS will be able to plug into the [Integrated Battle Command System \(IBCS\) being tested](#) at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, giving it the ability to both send and receive information from other radar systems and weapons systems in the network.

The US Army Combined Arms Center (CAC) [first outlined the Echelons Above Brigade combined arms concept in 2018](#) as part of the Multi-Domain Operations Concept, noting its necessity as part of a shift in strategic thinking concurrent with the Trump administration's shift away from the War on Terror. The CAC notes that "we find ourselves entering a new era where the threat of large-scale ground combat is more likely than at any point since the end of the Cold War."

The new [US Space Force \(USSF\) is also concerned with jamming](#) and counter-jamming efforts, [and the branch's new "Spacepower" doctrine notes](#) that because space assets are operated by surface-based personnel, space operations are also inherently multi-domain.

The first version of the TLS is expected to enter service in 2022, but the Army still hasn't selected which version it will adopt: that built by Lockheed Martin or its rival firm, Boeing. However, Breaking Defense notes the TLS-EAB could be in service by the end of 2023.

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Monthslong Protest Compels Philadelphia Gov to Give 50 Vacant Homes to Housing Trust - Activists

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

After months of persistent protest, activists in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, seem to have forced the city's housing authority to turn over dozens of vacant units to a community land trust to provide affordable housing for the city's growing homeless population. Two of the activists told Sputnik the victory was the result of years of organizing.

On September 26, [activists with the Philadelphia Housing Action, one of several groups](#) that organized monthslong protest encampments outside the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) offices in northern Philadelphia and in several other strategic locations around the city, announced they had reached a tentative agreement in which the city would relinquish control over 50 vacant homes.

According to [a Pew report published earlier this month](#), 140,000 Philadelphia households earn \$30,000 or less per year, and [the city's Office of Homeless Services reports](#) at least 5,700 people in the city have no home.

Jennifer, an organizer with OccupyPHA, and Kane, Camp JTD resident and organizer, told Radio Sputnik's By Any Means Necessary on Wednesday the deal is necessary because of how the PHA helps funnel empty homes to redevelopers, causing an increase in rents and blocking the ability of locals to continue owning property in their neighborhoods.

"The PHA here owns a lot of vacant units that just sit for decades with boards on the windows," Jennifer told hosts Jacquie Luqman and Sean Blackmon.

"So back in March, we initially started moving homeless mothers and their children into some of the vacant PHA units, and then later on in the summer we started the encampments, which was kind of after a series of the city evicting small, informal encampments. So, we felt like a protest encampment that would maybe be able to stop the police from being able to just tear the encampment up," Jennifer said.

"So, the first encampment that started was five people in a group [growing] to like, over a hundred people by the end of that weekend. And then a group of people moved up to a lot under the housing authority's new \$45 million headquarters about two weeks in, because the PHA refused to come to the table and meet. So ever since then there's been ... encampments, and they're connected as one as far as what we're demanding and just [being] in different locations to make sure we're pressuring both the city and the housing authority at the same time," Jennifer told Sputnik.

The activist said the group's efforts had interdicted several attempted evictions and had survived numerous attempts to disperse the camps that included using bulldozers and fencing to force them out.

"I think that the reason the evictions didn't go through was a mix of things: the city was already under fire [for tear-gassing peaceful protesters on the highway](#) just a few days before the encampment started, and I know the public image thing, like, they don't want to be seen brutalizing people who are just fighting for a place to go," Jennifer said.

"And then there's the fact that the protest was years in the making, these encampments weren't random, so a lot of us that were organizers were people that the city already knew by first name and would lock their doors if we were coming to their offices."

"So they know that we knew a lot, and there was a lot of knowledge and research that was done in the laws and the policies and stuff like that," Jennifer explained, adding the PHA realized that "no matter what they do to the encampment, this fight is going to continue on, and they're not going to be just let off the hook."

Kane, who phoned into Radio Sputnik for the interview from the encampment, told the hosts there was "something going on" with the police at the site at the time.

"We took a barricade down. We actually, since last Thursday, took our barricades down off of 22nd Street, and it's been wild with police. They've been coming up here every day, and I'm trying to ... I mediate between the residents and the police, so I'm trying to juggle both and ... was not expecting this to happen."

"The police are brutal," Kane said. "A week prior, we had a barricade up where we kind of maintained an environment where we policed ourselves. It was to the point where we couldn't even get medical attention inside the encampment. I actually have a video on my phone where

they told the ambulance not to come in, we had to wheel somebody out on a slab of wood to the ambulance truck. So they oppress us in so many ways. They deny us medical, the police come in and bother us any chance they get. Like I said, they're out here now. It's a big commotion."

"It's hard, but we're pressing," Kane told Sputnik.

Jennifer told Luqman and Blackmon that PHA auctions off its vacant units to developers, including in special deals called "developer bundles," which blocks locals from buying individual properties since they're "bundled up with 10 other properties" scattered across the city. The activists also object to mixed-income developments because the time limits on low-income vouchers expire after a certain number of years, bringing the units up to market-rate rents, meaning the developers get an easy tax break by including them in their buildings.

Despite these challenges, the activists have nonetheless forced the Philadelphia government to agree to a deal with persistent pressure. Kane told Sputnik it took several rounds of tough negotiations that were significantly helped along by the city's desire to get rid of the barricades surrounding the encampment. The resulting agreement saw the city fork over 50 houses for homeless people to live in, while the protesters agreed to dismantle their perimeter barricades. Jennifer said the activists settled on a land trust instead of simple home ownership because of their incredible durability, retaining affordable rent and tax exemptions for a century after the agreement. "And it would be cooperatively maintained, which would keep the sense of community and keep people caring about their homes," they said.

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Google Searches for 'Move to Canada' Skyrocket After First US Presidential Debate

The first US presidential debate may have Americans looking north, according to Google Trends, which shows that Google searches for how to apply for Canadian citizenship and move to Canada drastically spiked following the chaotic faceoff on Tuesday between US President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

According to Google, queries for ["how to apply for Canadian citizenship"](#) spiked at 10:32 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, about one hour into the debate. At 4:24 a.m. on Wednesday, that same query skyrocketed in frequency. The Google search was most popular in Massachusetts, followed by Michigan, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania, in that order.

Other search queries, including ["how to move to Canada"](#) and ["move to Canada"](#) also experienced substantial spikes during Tuesday's debate. The "how to move to Canada" search spiked at 10:48 p.m. EDT, while the "move to Canada" query also spiked at 10:48 p.m. and once again at 7:12 a.m. the following day.

While the "move to Canada" search was most popular in Wyoming, Vermont, Oregon, Colorado and Washington state, the "how to move to Canada" search was most popular in the following states in this order: Oregon, Wyoming, Washington, Colorado and Vermont.

Many Twitter users also expressed their desire to move to Canada following Tuesday's debate. The hashtag ["#TrumpIsARacist"](#) was also trending on Twitter Wednesday.

"Joe Biden just clearly and concisely denounced white supremacy. Why is it so easy for Joe and so hard for @realDonaldTrump?" [one user wrote](#).

"Donald Trump has made the Proud Boys a household name. He's the one killing suburbia....and cities, countrysides," [another user wrote](#).

During the debate, replete with bitter exchanges and numerous interruptions as moderator Chris Wallace of Fox News struggled to control the chaos, Trump failed to condemn white supremacy and told the Proud Boys group, a far-right, neo-fascist organization, to "stand back and stand by."

"The Proud Boys," Trump said during the debate, "stand back and stand by. But I'll tell you what, I'll tell you what: somebody's got to do something about Antifa and the left, because this is not a right-wing problem."

Trump has faced widespread backlash, including from fellow Republicans, for refusing to condemn white supremacy in Tuesday's debate. However, when questioned by reporters on the matter on Wednesday, Trump clarified that he was unfamiliar with the Proud Boys, and that the group should ["stand down and let law enforcement do their work."](#)

On Wednesday, Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT) said that "of course" Trump should have clearly condemned white supremacy, [CBS News reported](#). Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD) also told reporters Wednesday he was "hoping for more clarity" from Trump on the topic of race.

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Photos: Seven People Injured in Apparent Drive-By Shooting Outside US Funeral Home
Pixabay/CC0

Seven people were wounded at the Serenity Funeral Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Wednesday in an apparent drive-by shooting.

The unidentified shooter is believed to have fired from a vehicle as a group of people were entering the funeral home. According to the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), around 100 mourners were gathered for a funeral for Braxton Taylor, 26, when the shooting occurred. Taylor died in a September 17 homicide that has not yet been solved by police.

Police are currently searching for the suspect in the Wednesday shooting.

The victims, aged between 24 and 48, have been hospitalized but are all in stable condition and are expected to survive.

Photos at the scene show the funeral home's shattered windows and a heavy police presence.

"This is an untenable situation. This brazen act done in broad daylight is just unacceptable in our city," Milwaukee Police Chief Michael Brunson said, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

"Our prayers are with the victims and their family members during this terrible time," [Brunson added](#).

Following the shooting, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett criticized guns.

"It's the insanity of people solving their problems with guns," [Barrett said](#). "We're seeing way too much of that this year."

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'Music is Not a Crime': UN Urges Nigeria to Overturn Death Sentence for Singer Accused of Blasphemy

The United Nations (UN) this week called for the protection of Nigerian singer Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, who was recently sentenced to death over an allegedly blasphemous song he performed and shared on messaging app WhatsApp.

In a Monday statement by the UN's Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, human rights experts called on the Nigerian government to release the 22-year-old singer from custody. "We are deeply concerned over the serious lack of due process in Mr. Sharif-Aminu's case so far, especially reports that he has been held incommunicado, and that he did not have access to a lawyer during his initial trial, a trial that was not open to the public," [the experts said in a news release](#).

"Artistic expression of opinion and beliefs, through songs or other media – including those seen to offend religious sensibilities – is protected in accordance with international law. The criminalization of these expressions is unlawful," the experts added. "Music is not a crime."

"We are also gravely concerned about Mr. Sharif-Aminu's safety, in light of the death threats against him. Nigeria must take effective measures to protect Mr. Sharif-Aminu, in detention as well as after his release," the experts noted.

Sharif-Aminu was convicted of blasphemy against the prophet of Islam by a Sharia court in Nigeria's northern Kano State on August 10. His home was also burned down on March 4, and he has received death threats after his music circulated via WhatsApp in March.

Osai Ojigho, Amnesty International Nigeria's country director, has also expressed concern over Sharif-Aminu's sentencing.

"This is a travesty of justice. There are serious concerns about the fairness of his trial; and the framing of the charges against him based on his WhatsApp messages. Furthermore the imposition of the death penalty following an unfair trial violates the right to life. Yahaya Sharif-Aminu must be released immediately and unconditionally," [Ojigho said in an August 13 news release](#).

Amnesty International has also said Nigeria is obligated under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to confine capital punishment to the most serious crimes, which involve intentional killing.

"Furthermore the imposition of the death penalty following an unfair trial violates the right to life. Yahaya Sharif-Aminu must be released immediately and unconditionally," Ojigho added. Under Sharia, or Islamic religious law, blasphemy, drinking alcohol, adultery, homosexuality, gambling and any displays of affection outside of marriage are outlawed.

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Trump Signs Resolution Funding US Government Through 11 December to Avert Shutdown

The US Senate earlier passed a funding measure in an 84 to 10 vote on Wednesday in an effort to prevent a government shutdown at the end of the month. The legislation now heads to US President Donald Trump's desk for his signature.

US President Donald Trump has signed a resolution extending the government funding through 11 December, White House spokesman, Judd Deere, said on Thursday.

The stopgap measure was cleared by the US Senate overnight and the US House of Representatives last week.

The legislation was passed in the US Senate hours before the annual spending bill was set to expire, which would have left federal agencies without sufficient money to continue operations at fiscal year 2020 levels.

The bill adds \$8 billion in nutrition assistance programs, expands a program that provides low-income children with food and permits farm aid to be distributed to farmers impacted by Trump's trade policies.

Pandemic relief funding included in the bill was added before the bill was approved by the US House on September 22.

The measure also extends many programs whose funding is set to expire on September 30 including highway and transit programs, federal flood insurance programs and several health programs, including a provision to prevent Medicaid cuts to hospitals that serve the poor.

The stopgap spending bill is necessary because the GOP-controlled Senate has not taken action on any of the 12 annual spending bills that fund the 30% of the government's budget passed by Congress annually, [US News explains](#).

The last 35-day government shutdown took place between December 2018 and January 2019 and was the longest on record. The shutdown, which furloughed 800,000 government workers, occurred after congressional lawmakers and the White House disagreed over funding for a wall along the US' southern border.

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Video: China Wraps High-Altitude Trials With Chopper Drone Prototype
by [Evan Craighead](#)

China's AR-500C unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) prototype has completed a test flight at a high-altitude airport and is confirmed to be capable of carrying an 80-kilogram (176-pound) payload, according to new state media reports.

The Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) revealed this week that its AR-500C had completed a series of tests on Sunday while in the southwest province of Sichuan, including climbing, hovering and rotating before landing, [according to the South China Morning Post \(SCMP\)](#).

Reports of this come amid China's border dispute with India and the [recent buildup of Chinese troops](#) in the Ladakh region.

[According to DefPost](#), the chopper drone's test flight area was at Daocheng Yading Airport, the highest civilian airport in the world at 4,411 meters (14,472 feet) above sea level.

"The test-flight area was roughly the same altitude as the Himalayan region that includes the Line of Actual Control where China and India have been locked in a tense territorial stand-off," the SCMP reported.

AVIC detailed that the test flight itself provided confirmation that the AR-500C could carry an estimated payload of 80 kilograms (176 pounds) while staying aloft for a period of five or more hours.

"This means that in a plateau rescue mission it can deliver a day's supply of life-saving food for more than 30 people in one flight," noted chief designer Zeng Guogui, as reported by the SCMP.

The state-owned corporation emphasized that the chopper drone was capable of reaching the Tibetan Plateau.

The chopper drone was seen in May making its maiden flight in the eastern Chinese province of Jiangxi.

AVIC noted that the AR-500C is designed to be used in missions related to reconnaissance and communications relay. However, DefPost noted that the chopper drone is capable of also running "electronic disruption, target indication, fire strike, cargo delivery and nuclear radiation and chemical contamination reconnaissance."

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French Olympic Skater Retires Amid Probe Into Lewd Photos Sent to US 13-Year-Old
by [Evan Craighead](#)

French Olympic figure skater Morgan Cipres has retired from the sport amid an ongoing criminal probe into his allegedly sending lewd direct messages to a 13-year-old American figure skater via Instagram.

The French Federation of Ice Sports [announced on Tuesday](#) that Cipres, 29, was retiring from the sport and would no longer represent France in future Olympic games.

This came amid ongoing investigations by the US Center for SafeSport and Florida's Pasco County Sheriff's Office into 2017 allegations against the ex-Olympic skater.

According to the mother of a teenage American figure skater, Cipres sent the teen two photos of his penis in December 2017, when the girl was 13, [USA Today reported](#). The two had skated at the same ice rink in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

Cipres, who was 26 at the time, allegedly sent the teen's mother a lengthy apology following the incident.

"I'm sending you a message because of what happened with [girl's name removed] and I," the message read, according to USA Today. "I want first to apologies [sic] about my stupid things I

did. It was irresponsible from my side and I do really regret my act. So I am asking your apologies sincerely and I hope we can be all right on this.”

“I’m ready to come to meet you in person face to face to speak about it if you can tomorrow,” Cipres said at the end of the long apology, which did not expound on what “stupid things” occurred. He was not taken up on his offer to meet.

The figure skater has not issued any public statements on the matter.

The parents alleged that Cipres was not the only party at fault, saying that John Zimmerman and Silvia Fontana, the skater’s coaches, attempted to prevent the matter from being brought to authorities. The two have denied the accusations.

Bermudian Vanessa James, Cipres’ 33-year-old pairs skating partner, [has also announced her retirement from figure skating](#).

The pair began skating together during the 2009-2010 season and had racked up five French national titles and a bronze medal at the European Championships. They also came in fifth at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, which occurred weeks after Cipres allegedly issued his apology to the teenager’s parents.

The duo was slated to compete for a medal at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China.

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Forthcoming ICE Op Against Sanctuary Cities is ‘PR Move’ Pushing Trump’s ‘Insider Threat’ Narrative

by [Evan Craighead](#)

The Washington Post reported on Tuesday that US President Donald Trump’s administration was preparing to carry out an “immigration enforcement blitz” in October that would target US “sanctuary” cities and jurisdictions. One expert tells Sputnik that this is nothing more than an attempt at increasing 45’s chances of reelection.

Patrick D. Anderson, a visiting assistant professor of philosophy at Grand Valley State University, contributor to Black Agenda Report and editor-in-chief of the WikiLeaks Bibliography, joined [Radio Sputnik’s Political Misfits](#) on Wednesday and emphasized that the present state of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) could have been prevented while former US President Barack Obama was in office.

Anderson told hosts Bob Schlehuber and Michelle Witte that because the Obama administration failed to disband the Department of Homeland Security agency, which he described as a “product of the War on Terror era” and which was founded in 2003, “we’re now actually seeing what the full, visceral use of an agency like ICE can look like.”

(Segment begins around the 19:15 timestamp)

Cities [cited in the Post’s report](#) as targets of the ICE operation were Denver, Colorado; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The operation is expected to begin in California.

“Generally speaking, as ICE has noted for years, in jurisdictions where cooperation does not exist and ICE is not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, ICE is forced to arrest

at-large criminal aliens out in the communities instead of under the safe confines of a jail,” said ICE spokesperson Mike Alvarez, as reported by the Post.

“The Trump administration likes to use ICE because it is seen as sort of like the vanguard, the ‘thin blue line,’ between civilization and chaos,” Anderson explained.

Citing “two officials with knowledge of plans for the sanctuary op,” the Post described the forthcoming blitz as “more of a political messaging campaign than a major ICE operation.” The agency regularly makes arrests throughout the year - particularly of immigration law violators with criminal records.

Anderson highlighted that, with the 2020 presidential election having already started in some states via early voting, “we can kind of watch the [sanctuary operation] as a sort of PR move” and a manifestation of the US’ broader colonial history.

“The idea is the North American continent has to be cleared of the ‘undesirable races’ so that a thriving, European civilization can emerge,” he detailed.

“Trump’s rhetoric is that we have an insider threat. The insider threat is an outsider and ... to bring American society back to its greatness - as [Trump] might say - we need to eliminate the outsider within, because ... it’s the outsiders that cause the problems,” Anderson said, describing the messaging of the Trump-Pence reelection campaign. “It’s nothing that’s internal to ... the function, the culture, the institutions of the United States, but it’s the outsiders that actually cause the problem.”

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Video: Dashcam Shows Florida Man Shooting Through Own Windshield in Road Rage Dispute by [Evan Craighead](#)

Recently released dashcam footage shows a Florida driver opening fire at another vehicle. It is unknown whether the man, seen repeatedly firing through his windshield, or the other armed motorist has been charged with any crimes in relation to the documented incident.

Marco Mazzetta, known on [YouTube as Endless Open Road](#), posted a now-viral YouTube video on September 24 which showcased a series of events that led to him firing at a fellow driver on Highway 417 near Orlando, Florida.

The video, which is marked in the bottom left corner as having been recorded on September 23, shows a Nissan 370Z aggressively tailgating Mazzetta's truck. Mazzetta is then seen tapping on his brakes, and the car hits the truck's back bumper before speeding ahead.

The driver briefly pointed a pistol at the truck at that moment, according to Mazzetta's [description of events to local outlet WESH](#). Shortly afterward, the dashcam video shows Mazzetta drawing a handgun and firing four shots through his own windshield at the other car. “I’m not a fan of guns; I’m a fan of not getting shot,” he said via text message to WESH’s Bob Hazen. “I know this video doesn’t capture my smartest moments but I hope any idiot criminal with a gun watching thinks twice before loading, brandishing and aiming their firearm at someone over a traffic infraction.”

Florida Highway Patrol Public Affairs Officer Lt. Kim Montes told the local news station that the altercation "could have really escalated to somebody getting shot, somebody getting killed." "You don't know the mindset of the other driver that you might get involved in some kind of situation. A lot of people carry weapons in their cars," the officer noted.

It remains unclear whether charges have been filed, but Mazzetta allegedly reported the incident to the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

The video appears to have polarized viewers, as many believe it was actually Mazzetta who escalated the situation, while others, like user Liite, believe he had a right to "defend [his] life." "I am saying you started this whole situation which could have been avoided by simply letting the guy pass. You say your friend said 'I think he wants to brake check you' which is way after you already brake checked him," YouTube user Zman claimed in opposition to Mazzetta's argument.

"I'm simply saying your claim to 'self defense' means you were defending yourself from someone else's actions, which you were clearly the instigator here."

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Disgrace-Off - Political Cartoon

The much-anticipated debate on Tuesday between incumbent US President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden, left most audiences shocked, with some labeling it the worst presidential debate in American history.

Both Trump and Biden acted like little kids on the stage in Cleveland, Ohio, bickering back and forth and repeatedly talking over one another.

During the 90-minute debate, Trump often bumped heads with Fox News host Chris Wallace, who moderated the contest but struggled all the while to keep it from going off the rails.

On Wednesday, Biden criticized Trump's debate performance the night before, calling it a "national embarrassment."

With two more presidential debates to go before Election Day, is Tuesday's event an aberration or the beginning of a woeful pattern?